



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) in California

Since May 2002, California confirmed bovine TB in three dairy herds - two in Tulare County and one in Kings County. All three herds were quarantined, the cattle destroyed, and the affected premises cleaned and disinfected. Cattle sold from or associated with each herd are being traced and tested.

On April 25, 2003, California was classified as TB **Modified Accredited Advanced (MAA)**. California can reapply for accreditation-free status in April 2005, provided no additional infected herds are detected.

Update

As of August 31, 2003, 441,600 cattle in 328 herds have been tested for bovine TB since this investigation began, and about 13,000 cattle have been depopulated.

Cumulative Since May 13, 2002	
Number of herds tested	328
Number of animals tested	441,600
Number of herds quarantined	3
Number of cattle destroyed	~13,000
Average number of field personnel	30

Over the next three months there will be a big push in area testing; resources have been redirected to the TB program now that staffing needs at the Exotic Newcastle Disease Task Force have significantly diminished.

TB in the US

Forty-six states are classified as Accredited TB-Free; three have been downgraded to MAA and one to Modified Advanced (MA).

On July 24, 2003, New Mexico lost its Free status after detecting two infected dairy herds. Both herds are under quarantine; extensive tracing and testing are ongoing.

On June 3, 2002, Texas lost its split-state status (part Free and part MAA) and the entire state became MAA, because two TB infected herds were found in the Free zone in 2001. Last month a purebred beef herd was diagnosed with TB. All three herds have been depopulated. On November 1, 2003, Texas will begin to TB test all dairy and some beef herds.

Michigan has struggled with TB in free-ranging white tailed deer since the early 90's. On October 20, 1999, Michigan lost its Free status and became a TB split status state. On June 22, 2000, the entire state lost its TB status and is now MA. TB has spread to infect 30 cattle herds; over 20 infected herds have been depopulated, and Michigan is conducting testing.

Impact on Livestock Producers

All breeding cattle and bison leaving California require official identification and a negative official TB test within 60 days of being moved, unless they are:

- Moved to slaughter at an approved slaughter plant,
- From an accredited herd with a certificate showing the herd completed all testing for accredited status with negative results within one year before moving.

The new TB requirements do not apply to sexually intact heifers moving to feedlots or steers and spayed heifers until **March 2004**. However, some states have more restrictive policies for moving cattle - always check with the state of destination for their requirements.

Agreements developed with neighboring states ease the TB testing requirements on breeding beef cattle moving interstate annually for grazing on approved Pasture-to-Pasture permits. Breeding beef cattle, 24 months of age and older, require a TB test within 12 months of application for the permit and subsequently every three years to continue to move annually until California's TB status changes.

As of August 15, 2003, California requires a TB test on all breeding dairy cattle entering the state.

California's Eradication Plan

CDFA, USDA and the cattle industry are working together to control and eradicate bovine TB from California:

- Test all dairies in Fresno, Kings and Tulare Counties (approximately 773,000 milking cows in 700 herds)
- Enhance slaughter surveillance, the primary method for detecting new cases of bovine TB, throughout California
- Enhance live animal testing procedures through training and education
- Utilize newly approved Gamma Interferon blood tests as a confirmatory TB test soon
- Restrict Mexican feeder cattle to "designated" pastures/feedlots (proposed for 2004 import season)
- Comply with USDA requirements for "Regionalization" if another infected herd is found
- Regain "Free" status by 2005
- Meet with state and national program leaders to enhance the national TB eradication plan

CDFA Animal Health Branch Offices

Sacramento (HQ)	916-654-1447
Modesto	209-491-9350
Ontario	909-947-4462
Redding	530-225-2140
Tulare	559-685-3500
Tulare TB Task Force	559-687-1158

USDA/APHIS/VS 916-854-3900 or 877-741-3690